

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CANBER 03235 090344Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /030 W

-----090350Z 090209 /15

R 090239Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 364

INFO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL PERTH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 3235

FOLLOWING SENT CANBERRA FROM MELBOURNE MAY 6 BEING
REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION:

QUOTE

MELBOURNE 1041

FOR POLITICAL SECTION FROM LABOR OFFICE

E O 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB, AS

SUBJ: ACTU EXECUTIVE CALLS SPECIAL CONFERENCE OF FEDERAL AFFILIATES
TO DETERMINE POSITION ON GOVT'S PROPOSED INDUSTRIAL LEGISLATION

1. RESPONDING TO FRASER GOVT'S INTENTION TO AMEND TRADE
PRACTICES AND CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION ACTS IN WAYS DESIGNED TO
CURB TRADE UNION POWER TO ACT IN INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, 18-MEMBER
ACTU EXECUTIVE MEETING IN MELBOURNE WEEK OF MAY 1 HAS CALLED
SPECIAL CONFERENCE OF AFFILIATES FOR MAY 18-19 IN SYDNEY FOR
PURPOSE OF DETERMINING ACTU POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION.
(CONFERENCE WILL BE SIMILAR TO ONE HELD IN JULY, 1976 TO DETERMINE
WHETHER OR NOT TO CALL GENERAL STRIKE OVER MEDIBANK.)

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 CANBER 03235 090344Z

2. EXEUCTIVE RESOLUTION ISSUED MAY 4 STATED WITH REFERENCE
TO PROPOSED LEGISLATION IF THE GOVT CANNOT BE PERSUADED BY OUR
REASON AND THE REASON OF THOSE SO OFFTEN OPPOSED TO US, THEN
WE WILL BE FORCED TO THE ALTERNATIVE USE OF OUR VAST PHYSICAL
RESOURCES WITH ITS CONSEQUENT MASSIVE DISLOCATION OF THE
ECONOMIC LIFE OF THE NATION AND THE POSSIBLE WITHDRAWAL OF THE

ORGANIZED TRADE UNION MOVEMENT FROM THE FEDERAL ARBITRATION SYSTEM."

3. ACTU PRESIDENT HAWKE SAID AT TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCE EVENING OF MAY 14 PROPOSED MEASURES CONSTITUTED "THE MOST ANTI-DEMOCRATIC, ANTI-UNION LEGISLATION THAT HAS EVER BEEN BROUGHT DOWN IN ANY WESTERN DEMOCRACY." STATING IN REPLY TO QUESTION THAT HE BELIEVED NEVERTHELESS THAT TRADE UNION MOVEMENT HAD SUFFICIENT INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH TO FORCE GOVT TO WITHDRAW LEGISLATION WITHOUT HAVING TO RESORT TO GENERAL STRIKE HE ALSO NOTED THAT MANY EMPLOYERS AND ELEMENTS WITHIN GOVT SHARED TRADE UNION MOVEMENT'S CONCERN ABOUT WHAT GOVT WAS PROPOSING TO DO. HE ADDED THAT QUESTION AT ISSUE WAS NOT ONE OF AMENDING LEGISLATION BUT OF THROWING IT OUT ALTOGETHER.

4. FEDERAL ALP INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS SPOKESMAN WILLIS DESCRIBED PROPOSED LEGISLATION AS DECLARATION OF WAR ON TRADE UNION MOVEMENT AND SAID PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION WOULD USE EVERY DEVICE IT COULD TO ENSURE THAT LEGISLATION IS REJECTED. HE SAID "UNDER THE GUISE OF PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS THE LEGISLATION SUBSTANTIALLY WEAKENS THE MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCIAL STRENGTH OF UNIONS BY FACILITATING AND ENCOURAGING NON-UNIONSIM.....UNION BARGAINING STRENGTH WOULD BE SMASHED BY ENABLING THE GOVT TO INITIATE THE PROCEDURES LEADING TO PENALTIES IMPOSED ON UNIONS FOR STRIKES AND OTHER INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY.....NEW AND POWERFUL PENALTIES ARE PROVIDED WHICH WOULD ENABLE THE FEDERAL COURT TO SUSPEND UNION OFFICERS, MEMBERS, OR THE UNION ITSELF FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD AND TO DIRECT ITS OPERATIONS, INCLUDING THE USE OF ITS FUNDS...BY THESE MEANS THE GOVT COULD VIRTUALLY TAKE OVER ANY TRADE UNION".

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 CANBER 03235 090344Z

5. HAWKE SCHEDULE TO DISCUSS PROPOSED LEGISLATION WITH MINISTER OF EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS STREET ON MAY 11 (WEEK PRIOR TO SYDNEY CONFERENCE).

6. COMMENT: HAWKE TOLD REPORTING OFFICER IN FEB (CANBERRA'S 1271) THAT HE BELIEVED MAJOR CLASH BETWEEN TRADE UNION MEVEMENT AND GOVT OVER PROPOSED INDUSTRIAL LEGISLATION WOULD TAKE PLACE NOT WHEN LATTER ENACTED LEGISLATION BUT WHEN IT ATTEMPTED TO IMPLEMENT ANTI-UNION PROVISIONS AND THIS APPEARS STILL TO BE HIS ESTIMATE OF THE SITUATION. SINCE, IN ADDITION TO ACTU EXECUTIVE, INDIVIDUAL TRADE UNION LEADERS ACROSS ENTIRE POLITICAL SPECTRUM HAVE ALREADY PUBLICLY CONDEMED PROPOSED LEGISLATION IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS, FRASER GOVT-TO-EMERGE VICTORIOUS FROM FORTHCOMING CONFRONTATION-WILL HAVE TO TAKE ON AND SUBDUE ENTIRE AUSTRALIAN TRADE UNION MOVEMENT-NO MEAN FEAT IN UNCERTAIN LIGHT OF ITS PERFORMANCE TO DATE IN FIELD OF INDUSTRAIAL RELATIONS. BRAND UNQUOTE PERCIVAL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARBITRATION, TRADE, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, LABOR UNIONS, LEGISLATIVE BILLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CANBER03235
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770162-0456
Format: TEL
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770580/aaaacqyi.tel
Line Count: 116
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e88e4698-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2603056
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ACTU EXECUTIVE CALLS SPECIAL CONFERENCE OF FEDERAL AFFILIATES TO DETERMINE POSITION ON GOVT'S PROPOSED INDUSTRIAL LEGISLATION
TAGS: ELAB, AS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e88e4698-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009